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tive augmentation of the earthy material as well as of the fixed carbon, he saw no impropriety in its use, but, on the contrary, a peculiar propriety, inasmuch as neither of the other terms in general use to designate mineral fuel is applicable to this variety. He referred to the geological report of the State of Virginia, in which an analysis of this substance is given, exhibiting its composition as follows, viz.:

Carbon,	80.30
Volatile matter,	9.98
Ash,	9.72

BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

Mr. Phillips offered the following Resolution, which was adopted :

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to determine the nomenclature of the N. American Naiades, preparatory to their being arranged in the collection of the Academy.

The Committee consists of Messrs. Phillips, Haldeman and McFarland.

STATED MEETING, December 13, 1842.

Vice President Morton in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

A Monograph of the Rhamphastidæ. By John Gould. Folio. London, 1842. From Mr. Haldeman, in exchange for other works.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.

A letter was read from M. Arago, Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, of France, dated Paris, September 26, 1842, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy, &c.

BUSINESS BY SPECIAL RESOLUTION.

By special permission, the Committee, consisting of Dr. Goddard, Mr. Taylor and Prof. Rogers, to whom was referred a paper by Peter A. Browne, Esq., on the subject of the supposed human foot prints found near St. Louis, in the Carboniferous Limestone, made a Report as follows:

That they do not consider that the ingenious arguments of the author can tend in the least to invalidate the reasonings of Dr. Owen in favor of the artificial nature of the foot marks. The evidence furnished by the paper and accompanying drawing of Dr. Owen, of which the communication before the Committee is a criticism, appears sufficient to place this question at rest for ever.

That these impressions are not genuine imprints of the human feet, but rude imitations, is obvious upon a slight anatomical consideration of them. Both the form and attitudes of the toes are entirely at variance with nature, and are such as to suggest that the sculptor exercised but a slight familiarity with the structure and capacities of motion of the parts. A mere inspection will satisfy all anatomists upon this point.

The geological proofs against their having been formed whilst the limestone was yet in a plastic state are no less decisive, since the facts stated by Dr. Owen go distinctly to show that the slab containing these foot prints is a portion of the carboniferous limestone formation of the Mississippi Valley, the Oceanic origin of each layer of which every geologist is prepared to demonstrate. Formed in the bed of an extended sea, and buried previous to its upheaval under an enormous accumulation of other deposits, it is impossible to conceive how human foot steps could gain access to the unconsolidated rock, even if the human race had existence at the time. That the race of man is of incalculably later origin than the rock containing these representations of feet, is, however, a fact thoroughly established in geology.

Setting aside, then, the possibility of referring the origin of these foot prints to the period of the formation of the rock, there is quite as little warrant for assigning it to any later period posterior to the upheaval and denudation of the stratum, for there are no facts connected with this, or any other of our ancient secondary rocks, which indicate that they retained their plastic condition after they were drained, to so late a date as the human epoch.

Guided by these and other considerations of similar purport, your Committee express their conviction, that the arguments detailed in the paper submitted to them do not at all weaken the published proofs of the artificial nature of the supposed foot prints.

On motion of Dr. Goddard, the communication of Mr. Browne, referred to in the above report, was ordered to be placed on file.

STATED MEETING, December 20, 1842.

Vice President Morton in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Specimens, in spirits, of Monitor ornatus, of Monitor ———, of Crocodilus ———, and of Chamæleo gracilis, Hallowell, (male,) from Western Africa.

Also a dried specimen of Tetrodon ———, from Western Africa; and a specimen, in spirits, of Coluber coccineus, from Mobile, Alabama. From Mr. John Cassin.

A portion of Fossilized Wood from Northern Mexico. From Mr. McKnight, through Mr. Lukens.

The following Shells were presented through Mr. Phillips. By Dr. J. C. Jay, of New York:

Mactra Braziliensis; Cytherea fulminata, two specimens; Helix